

S.C.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/961,434

Examiner

George C Yeung

Applicant(s)

NAMAI ET AL.

Art Unit

1761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on August 23, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) ~~is~~ are 1-7 and 18-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 September 2001 and 23 August 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

George C Yeung
Primary Examiner
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

In order to correct an obvious informality, pursuant to M.P.E.P. 1302.04, the following change has been made by the Examiner:

In the amended claim 1, line 16, the word -- incoming -- has been inserted after "each" (note that the change in the amended claim 1, line 16, is for the purpose of providing a proper antecedent basis for "said incoming bar-like dough piece" as recited in claim1, last line).

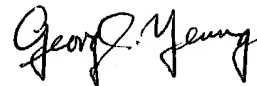
Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not show or suggest the present apparatus and method for bending a bar-like dough piece along its length into a predetermined form. The apparatus comprises conveying means for continuously conveying bar-like dough pieces thereon in traveling direction that is substantially orthogonal to a length of each bar-like dough piece, means for determining a plurality of actual positions to be bent on the length of each bar-like dough piece; means for substituting said determined actual positions with predetermined positions, and bending means for bending each incoming bar-like dough piece at said predetermined positions that are symmetrical or asymmetrical with respect to the center of said length of said incoming bar-like dough piece into a predetermined form as set forth in claim 1. The method comprises the steps of (a) continuously conveying bar-like dough pieces in a traveling direction that is substantially orthogonal to a length of each bar-like dough piece, (b) determining a plurality of actual positions to

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be bent on the length of each bar-like dough piece, (c) substituting said determined actual positions with predetermined positions, and (d) bending said bar-like dough piece at said predetermined positions that are symmetrical or asymmetrical with respect to the center of said length of said bar-like dough piece into a predetermined form as set forth in claim 18.

G. Yeung/af
September 16, 2004



GEORGE C. YEUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER